The member concluded by pointing out the importance of providing facilities of means of communication in a country in relation to its commercial and industrial development. He therefore requested that the needs of the taluk should be attended to without delay. He also wished that the Dewan would visit the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Goda Varma Tampan, the estimates for constructing bridges on the Karunagapalli-Alumkadavu road, rather the Kallukadavu-Marutukulangara road are under preparation, and the road will be otherwise attended to. The required pipe-culverts have already been constructed.

The question of providing better accommodation for the District Munsiff's Court will be considered with the Law's Delays Commissioner's report.

The dispensary has had an additional ward recently added to it, and further additions will be made as necessity arises and when funds allow.

In regard to the grant-in-aid to an Ayurveda dispensary, or *vaidyasala* at Padanayarkulangara, provision will be included in the next year's budget, if possible.

The new roads you mentioned and the improvements you suggested to old roads will be taken up as funds allow. They must be considered along with the road programme throughout the whole State. The Chief Engineer has sanctioned estimates for works amounting to lakhs and lakhs of rupees, and he cannot attend simultaneously to every road which has been mentioned in the Assembly.

134. Educational needs.

MR. P. V. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Kuzhittura*) spoke about the educational needs of the State. It was true that the Travancore State was far advanced in education when compared to other Indian States. There were several schools and colleges, both departmental and aided. Female education was also advancing. But the system of education was defective. It made persons fit only for holding Government posts. It was merely literary. It was high time that the system of education obtaining in the State was changed. The curricula of studies in schools should be so revised as to meet the requirements of the people in their avocations in life. Agricultural education should be made popular. Each school or college should have some plots of ground attached to it in order to afford facilities to students to get a practical training in agriculture. The full benefit of the change in the system could be dervied only if all the schools and colleges were entrusted to private management under the aided system. The education imparted should be national in character and the vernaculars of the State should form the medium of instruction. The member also made the following suggestions for improving the system of education:—

(i) All educational institutions in the State should be entrusted to private management under the grant-in-aid system, after retaining under departmental mangement as model institutions, one or two colleges and a few high schools.

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(ii) The curricula of studies should be thoroughly revised so as to meet the requirements of the people of different localities, in accordance with their avocations in life.

(iii) More time should be allotted for imparting practical instruction.

(iv) The period of instruction in schools should be enhanced to 6 hours a day and the examinations should be conducted in the month of December as of old.

(v) The Inspecting staff of the Education Department should be reduced to four Inspectors, one for each Division and one Inspectress for girls' schools.

(vi) A committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed at an early date to go into the question of educational reform in the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: I thank you, Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, for confining yourself to one subject out of the long list you first put in.

It is not denied that the educational problem is urgent and that some reform is necessary. As I have already said, it is proposed to constitute an Educational Reforms Committee as soon as possible; and your suggestions, no doubt, will be carefully considered.

135. Rural reconstruction.

MR. C. M. CHERIYAN (*Vaikam taluk*) said that every modern civilized state had to bestow its earnest attention on education, means of communication, sanitation and rural reconstruction. It was a matter for gratification that the Government were devoting proper attention to the first three items. But proper attention was not paid in the matter of developing the rural parts of the State. Out of the total population of 5 millions, about four and a half millions lived in rural areas. The major portion of the State's revenue was contributed by the inhabitants of these areas. The Government were therefore bound to pay greater attention to rural needs.

The rural needs of a country could be best attended to by the formation of Village Panchayats as had been done in the neighbouring State of Cochin. It was more than 10 years since Panchayats had been introduced in all the villages in the Cochin State and the institutions were found to be of considerable benefit to the people. Civil cases involving small amounts were decided by the Panchayats. They also brought to the notice of the Government the local needs regarding roads, tanks, wells, minor irrigation works, etc. On the Government granting the necessary funds, the Panchayats undertook to carry out public works also. The Cochin Government allotted every year about Rs. 4 lakhs for local needs to be carried out by Village Panchayats.

The urgent necessity of forming Village Panchayats had been repeatedly represented at several past sessions of the Assembly and the Government had also promised to take up the question; but nothing had been done in the matter yet. Village Panchayats should be formed in the immediate future in each village or group of villages and they should be worked on the same lines as in the Cochin State.

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